

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING
July 15, 2002
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present

Mr. Richard Ahuja
Mr. James Benson
Mr. Don Bosserman
Mr. Gary Bowman
Ms. Nancy Bright
Mr. Michael Gelardi
Mr. Phillip Paquette
Mr. William Thompson

Members Absent

Ms. Susan Dewey
Mr. John Kilgore
Ms. Rene Miller
Mr. Evans Thomas

Call to Order

Ms. Nancy Bright, Chairman, called the meeting of the Board of Housing and Community Development to order.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Stephen Calhoun of the Department's Policy Office. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2002 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chairman opened a public comment period for persons wishing to address the Board. Several persons had signed up to speak.

The first speaker was Mr. Brendon Foley of Moon Township, Pennsylvania. Mr. Foley provided information on fire prevention related to ARC-Fault Circuit Interrupters and recommended the Board consider such devices for fire prevention in Virginia.

The next speaker was Mr. Jim Dolan of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Mr. Dolan requested the Board review the NFPA Fire Prevention Code. Mr. Steven Shaprio of Hampton, Virginia reported that there is a need to revised building and fire regulations in Virginia as soon as possible. Mr. Shapiro reported that localities may receive lower insurance company ratings because they are not enforcing the current 2000 building codes.

The next speaker was Ms. Barbara Goodwin of the Council of Certified Interior Designers. Ms. Goodwin asked the Board to consider a broader definition for the term "Design Professional" within building code regulations. Mr. Bruce Richardson of the Government Services Group complemented the Department's Building Code Academy courses. Mr. Richardson stated that the courses were very useful and helpful.

Report of the Code
and Standards
Committee

Mr. Gary Bowman, chairman of the Codes and Standards Committee, reported on the morning meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Bowman stated that Prince William County officials made an informative presentation on separation distances between single family housing as a fire safety issue. Mr. Bowman also reported that the Committee completed its review of proposed building and fire regulations. Mr. Ahuja made a motion for the Board to adopt the Committee recommendations as proposed regulations and for staff to prepare documents to begin the public comment period on the proposed regulations. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted. The proposed regulations will be published in the Virginia Register. The public comment period begins on the publication date of the proposed regulations (scheduled to be October 7, 2002).

Report of the Director

Mr. Bill Shelton, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, introduced Mr. Christian Rickers, the new Confidential Assistant and Policy Analyst for the Department. Mr. Shelton reviewed HB 1212 from the 2002 General Assembly Session which would require manufactured homes meeting certain design and site criteria to be considered on the same basis as site-built single family homes in a local zoning ordinance. This bill was continued to 2003 in the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

Mr. Shelton spoke on various bills and studies related to housing for the disabled. The Department and the Virginia Housing Study Commission will look into possible accessibility problems in Virginia housing. Mr. Shelton reported that the Consolidated Action Plan public hearing was held on July 8, 2002

and the public comment period on the Plan would continue through July 15, 2002.

Mr. Shelton provided a brief update on the work of the Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force and the Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness. Mr. Ed Altizer, State Fire Marshal, provided an update on testing of Central Sprinkler Glass O-ring Sprinkler heads and identifying sprinklers to be tested.

Board Matters

Mr. Richard Ahuja provided members of the Board a copy of his speech made at the recent Housing Counselors meeting in Norfolk.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Future Meetings

The next will be held on September 11, 2002 at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia during the Virginia Housing Conference.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.